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{CLEAN PAGES OF THE AMENDED SPECIFICATION}

computer terminals CT1-CTn are represented. The indicated terminals T1-Tn represent the multitude of telephone terminals existing in association with the public switched telephone network (PSTN). The indicated computer terminals CT1-CTn  
5 represent the multitude of computer terminals connected to the Internet.

The PSTN, which accommodates the individual terminals T1-Tn, is coupled to an Interactive Voice Response System (IVR). The Internet, which accommodates individual computer terminals CT1-  
10 CTn, is coupled to an Internet Web Server (IWS). Individual telephone callers use the individual telephone stations T1 through Tn to interface the IVR through the PSTN. Individual users at computer terminals CT1 through CTn use the Internet to interface the IWS. Both telephone callers and Internet users may  
15 record digital audio messages that can be listened to from any of the remote telephone terminals T1-Tn or from any of the remote computer terminals CT1-CTn. Internet users may leave digital text messages that may be accessed from any of the remote telephone terminals T1-Tn using text to speech or from the remote  
20 computer terminals CT1-CTn via computer monitor.

First, considering the system of Fig. 1 in somewhat greater detail, it is to be understood that the PSTN has multiplexing capability for individually coupling the terminals T1-Tn to the IVR on request. In the illustrative embodiment of the system,

the individual terminals T1-Tn take the form of existing traditional or conventional telephone instruments. It is also to be understood that the Internet has the capability for individually connecting the computer terminals CT1-CTn to the IWS. In this illustrative embodiment of the system, the individual computer terminals CT1-CTn take the form of personal computers that comprise a central processing unit (CPU), modem, monitor, keyboard, hard drive, sound card, speakers and microphone. A certain number of CT1-CTn would also include a video capture card and a camera. In addition, the invention assumes that one or more of the individual computer terminals CT1-CTn is running Internet telephony client software, commercially available examples of which are Microsoft NetMeeting and Intel Internet Phone. To allow video conferencing, a given computer terminal would be loaded with Internet communication software that supports video, such as Microsoft NetMeeting 2.0.

Second, considering the IVR in somewhat greater detail, the PSTN is coupled to an IVR (see Fig. 1). In the disclosed embodiment, from the PSTN, forty-eight lines are connected to the IVR from the PSTN and, accordingly, the IVR may accommodate up to forty-eight simultaneous calls from the PSTN. The IVR contains a processor, an exemplary form of which is an Intel 166MHz Pentium Processor. The forty-eight lines from the PSTN are connected to

the processor through an interface 15, an exemplary form of which is a series of commercially available Dialogic (D240SC-T1) cards. The interface incorporates modems, tone decoders, switching mechanisms, DNIS and ANI capability. The Dialogic card stores  
5 audio information in the Dialogic .VOX format.

Generally, DNIS capability is a function of the PSTN to provide digital data indicating the called number. ANI capability is a similar function whereby the digital data indicates the calling number.

10 Considering the IWS in somewhat greater detail, the IWS is coupled to the Internet via a T3 line to a local Internet provider service. The IWS may accommodate a multitude of simultaneous Internet users. As represented, the IWS is a micro computer programmed for Internet information server operations.  
15 The IWS contains a processor and Internet server software, exemplary forms of which are an Intel 166Mhz Pentium Processor and Microsoft Internet Information Server software.

The IWS is also loaded with RealAudio Server software from Progressive Network. RealAudio allows a Microsoft Windows .WAV  
20 file to be converted into a RealAudio .RA file, a compressed format that allows playback over the Internet in real time, as opposed to first downloading a file and then listening to it. RealAudio accomplishes this by playing an audio file while it is

#### PLACING AN AD THROUGH A TELEPHONE

An exemplary operation of the system, with regard to a specific telephone caller placing a personal advertisement will now be treated to accomplish the process as indicated in Fig 5. First, suppose a telephone caller at terminal T1 makes a call to place a personal advertisement in response to an advertisement in XYZ newspaper. The assumed call involves the telephone caller actuating the buttons to input the number 1-8-0-0-5-5-5-3-3-3-3, for example. As a result, signals are provided to the PSTN resulting in a connection from the remote terminal T1 to the IVR. Using standard DNIS techniques, the IVR associates the called number 1-8-0-0-5-5-5-3-3-3-3 with a specific format, for example, a voice personals ad taking format.

The caller is first prompted to create a profile of himself by answering a series of questions using the buttons on his touch tone phone. Referring initially to Fig 5, upon receiving a call, the IVR cues the caller to enter his telephone number 801. The IVR stores the telephone number 802 in the field AD\_PHONE 203. Next, the IVR asks the caller if he would like to enable the direct connect feature, thereby allowing respondents to be able to call the advertiser's telephone number, without revealing the number 803. For example: "If you would like to activate the

advertiser retrieving responses to his personal ad will now be treated to accomplish the process as indicated in Fig. 13.

First, suppose an advertiser at terminal T1 places a call to retrieve messages left in response to his ad. The assumed call  
5 involves the advertiser actuating the buttons to input the number 1-9-0-0-7-7-7-4-4-4-4, for example. As a result, signals are provided to the PSTN resulting in a connection from the remote terminal T1 to the IVR. Using standard DNIS techniques, the IVR associates the called number 1-9-0-0-7-7-7-4-4-4-4 with a  
10 specific format, for example, a message retrieval format.

Referring to Fig. 13, upon receiving a call, the IVR sets the "logon attempts" equal to zero 2501. The IVR then increments the "logon attempts" by one 2502 and cues the caller for a mailbox number 2503 and password 2504. The IVR then queries the  
15 Ad Database to determine if the mailbox number and password are valid 2505. If the entries are not valid, the IVR determines if the caller has exceeded the maximum number of logon attempts allowed 2506. If the caller has exceeded the maximum number of logon attempts allowed, the call is terminated 2507. If the  
20 maximum number of logon attempts allowed has not been exceeded, the IVR increments the "logon attempts" by one 2502 and again cues the caller for a mailbox number 2503 and password 2504.

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